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Charlton Classics presents

HERCULES

THE WRATH
OF THE
GODDESS
QUEEN

SWORN TO DESTROY

HERCULES

00288



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ADVENTURES OF THE MAN-GOD HERCULES

HERCULES, THE SON OF ZEUS, WAS HATED BITTERLY BY HERA, HIS STEPMOTHER, THE QUEEN OF MOUNT OLYMPUS. IT WAS SHE WHO THOUGHT OF THE FANTASTICALLY DIFFICULT **TWELVE LABORS** WHICH KING EURYSTHEUS SENT HIS COUSIN, HERCULES, TO DO. IT WAS HERA WHO DROVE HERCULES MAD. IT WAS HERA WHO FORBODE ZEUS TO HELP HIS **HALF-MORTAL** SON IN HIS TIMES OF TROUBLE. AND NOW, HERA TOLD KING EURYSTHEUS TO INSTRUCT HERCULES TO CAPTURE THE GREAT BOAR OF MOUNT ERYMANTHUS. A BOAR WHICH HERCULES MUST NOT INJURE. A MONSTROUS BOAR WHICH HAD KILLED EVERY MAN FOOLISH ENOUGH TO HUNT IT.

YOU EXCEED YOURSELF THIS TIME, NOBLE QUEEN. EVEN **HERCULES**, MY TRUE SON, CANNOT CAPTURE THIS HIDEOUS CREATURE!

ZEUS YOU'VE TAKEN OATH ON THE WATERS OF THE RIVER STYX THAT THOU WILST NOT USE THY POWERS TO AID HIM. ABIDE AND WATCH AS I DO. LET HIM **LIVE** IF HE CAN.



THE BOAR



I CANNOT KILL THEE... AND THY GREAT TUSKS TEAR MY FLESH WHEN I ATTEMPT TO SEIZE THY THROAT!

STORY JOE GILL
ART SAM GLANZMAN

8-17/2

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EAGER TO COMPLETE HIS TWELVE LABORS SO THAT HE MIGHT TAKE HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE AT HIS FATHERS SIDE ON MOUNT OLYMPUS, HERCULES ONCE MORE SOUGHT OUT KING EURYSTHEUS.

THESE OTHER TASKS I SET FOR THEE WERE NOT TRUE TESTS, COUSIN HERCULES

WOULD YOU ATTEMPT THEM, NOBLE COUSIN? I THINK NOT...

ENOUGH OF THY INSULTS, HERCULES. THIS NEXT TASK WILL NOT BE AS SIMPLE AS IT SEEMS.

DO NOT WASTE BREATH TRYING TO FRIGHTEN ME, IGNOBLE KING. WHAT IS THE TASK?

ON SOARING MOUNT ERYMANTHUS A GREAT BOAR HAS HIS LAIR... AND YOU ARE TO **CAPTURE** THIS BOAR AND BRING HIM TO ME!

A BOAR? THIS IS NO GREAT TA...

THOU MAYEST **NOT** USE WEAPONS, NETS OR SNARES, MIGHTY HERCULES!

THAT LEAVES ONLY **MY BARE HANDS!**

JUST REACHING MOUNT ERYMANTHUS WAS NOT WITHOUT PERIL...

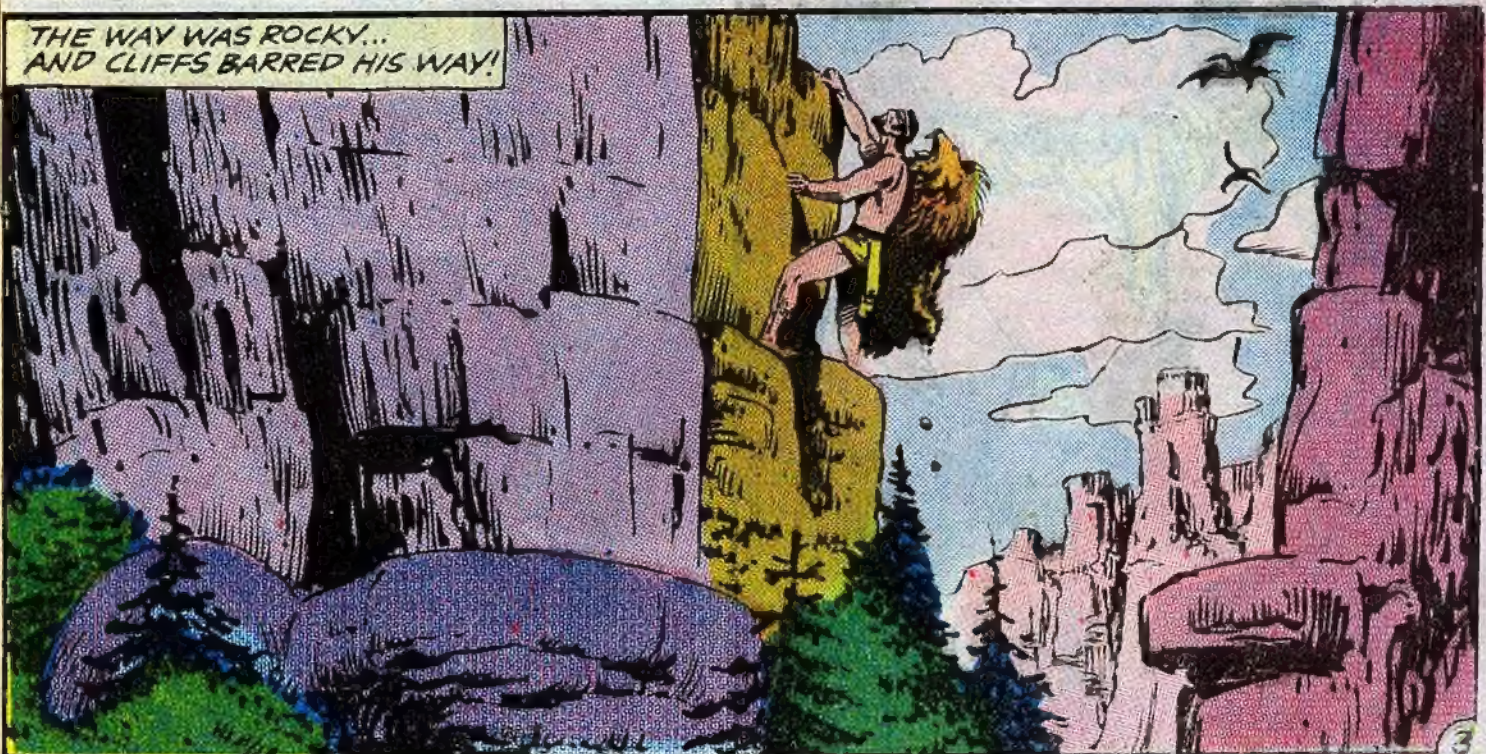
THE RIVER'S ROAR GROWS LOUDER... WHAT LIES IN STORE BEYOND THE BEND?



KING EURYSTHEUS SPOKE TRUE
EACH LABOR BECOMES MORE
PERILOUS. YONDER MOUNTAINS
LIE ACROSS MY PATH THESE
MUST BE SCALED.



THE WAY WAS ROCKY...
AND CLIFFS BARRED HIS WAY!



THE TOWERING CLIFFS ALONE WOULD DEFEAT A NORMAL MORTAL... BUT HERCULES FIGHTS HIS WAY UP THE ROCK, FOOT BY FOOT... ONLY TO FIND ANOTHER ENEMY WAITING AT THE TOP!



THE FEARFUL CREATURES SCREAMED THEIR RAGE AND ATTACKED TIME AFTER TIME! HERCULES FOUGHT WITH ALL HIS COURAGE AND STRENGTH... BUT HE WAS WEAKENING...

THEIR CLAWS HAVE POISON... EACH WOUND BURNS AND WEAKENS MY POWERS!

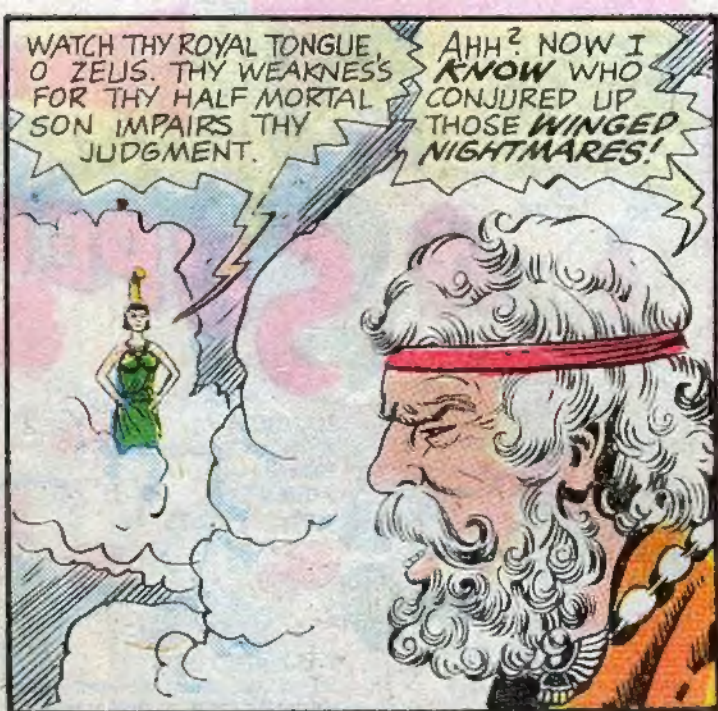


WHENCE CAME THOSE BIRDS?
THEY ARE NOT OF A SPECIES
KNOWN ELSEWHERE THEY
APPEAR TO BE MORE THE
CONCEPT OF A DEMENTED
MIND!

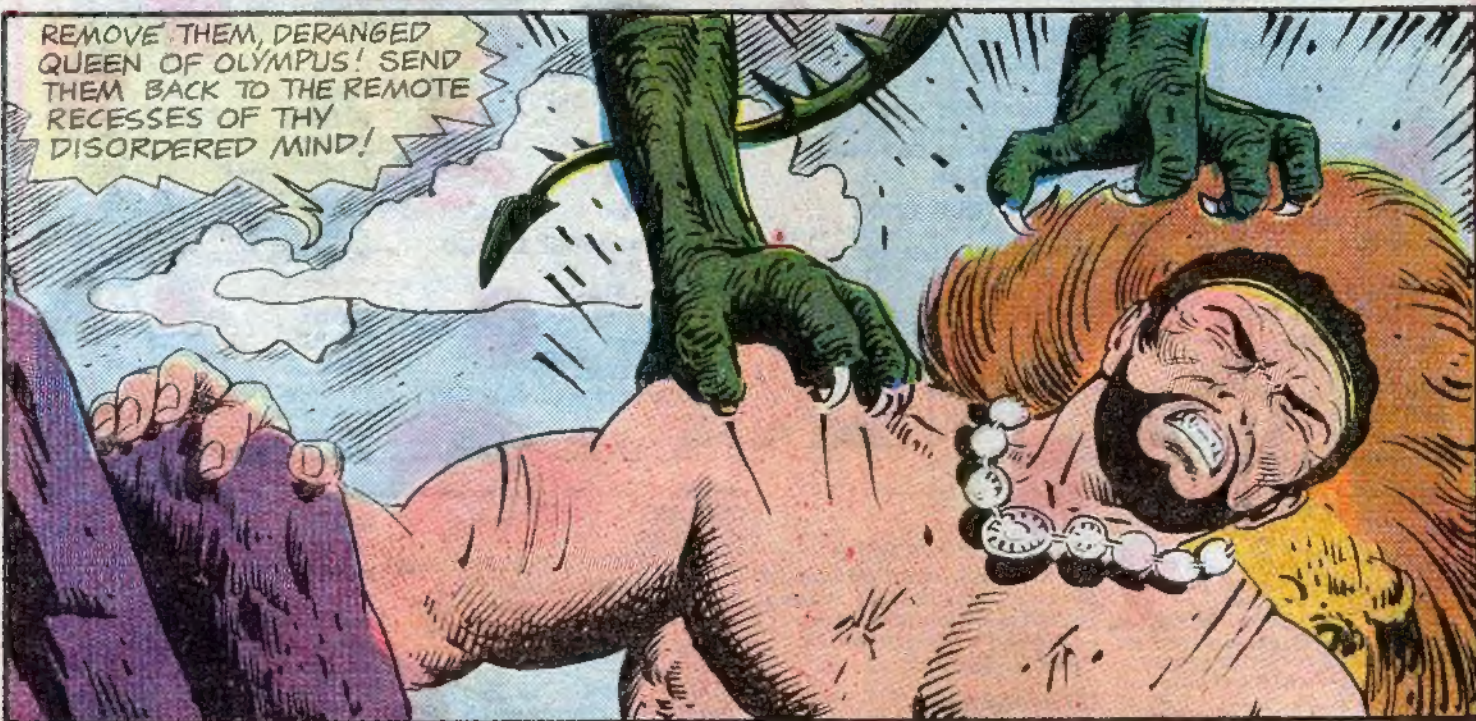


WATCH THY ROYAL TONGUE
O ZEUS. THY WEAKNESS
FOR THY HALF MORTAL
SON IMPAIRS THY
JUDGMENT.

AHH? NOW I
KNOW WHO
CONJURED UP
THOSE **WINGED**
NIGHTMARES!



REMOVE THEM, DERANGED
QUEEN OF OLYMPUS! SEND
THEM BACK TO THE REMOTE
RECESSES OF THY
DISORDERED MIND!



AS THE CRASHING THUNDER ECHOED OFF
THE PEAKS AND THEN THE ECHOES WERE
STILLED... HERCULES CLUNG GRIMLY FOR
DEAR LIFE... AND LOOKED ABOUT HIM WITH
GREAT WONDER. **FOR THE BIRDS WERE
GONE...**

MY THANKS,
MIGHTY ZEUS...



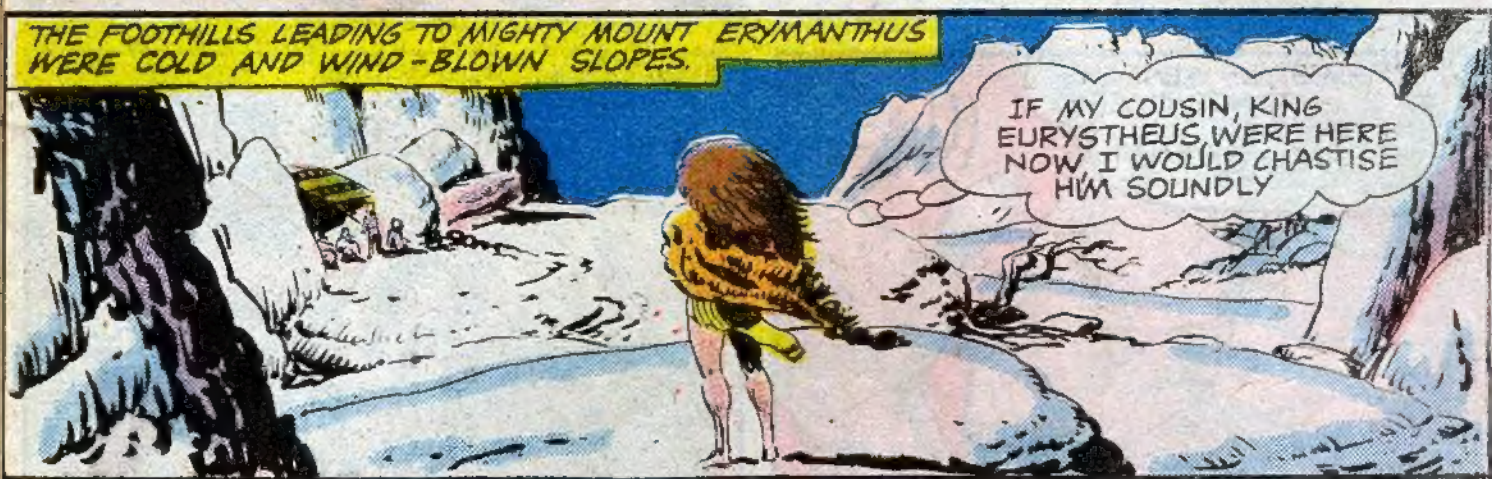
THE BIRDS VANISHED AS IF THEY HAD NEVER EXISTED...
AND THE POISONOUS WOUNDS WHICH THEY INFLICTED
DISAPPEARED TOO.

DID I DREAM IT?
I THINK NOT



THE FOOTHILLS LEADING TO MIGHTY MOUNT ERYMANTHUS
WERE COLD AND WIND-BLOWN SLOPES.

IF MY COUSIN, KING
EURYSTHEUS WERE HERE
NOW I WOULD CHASTISE
HIM SOUNDLY

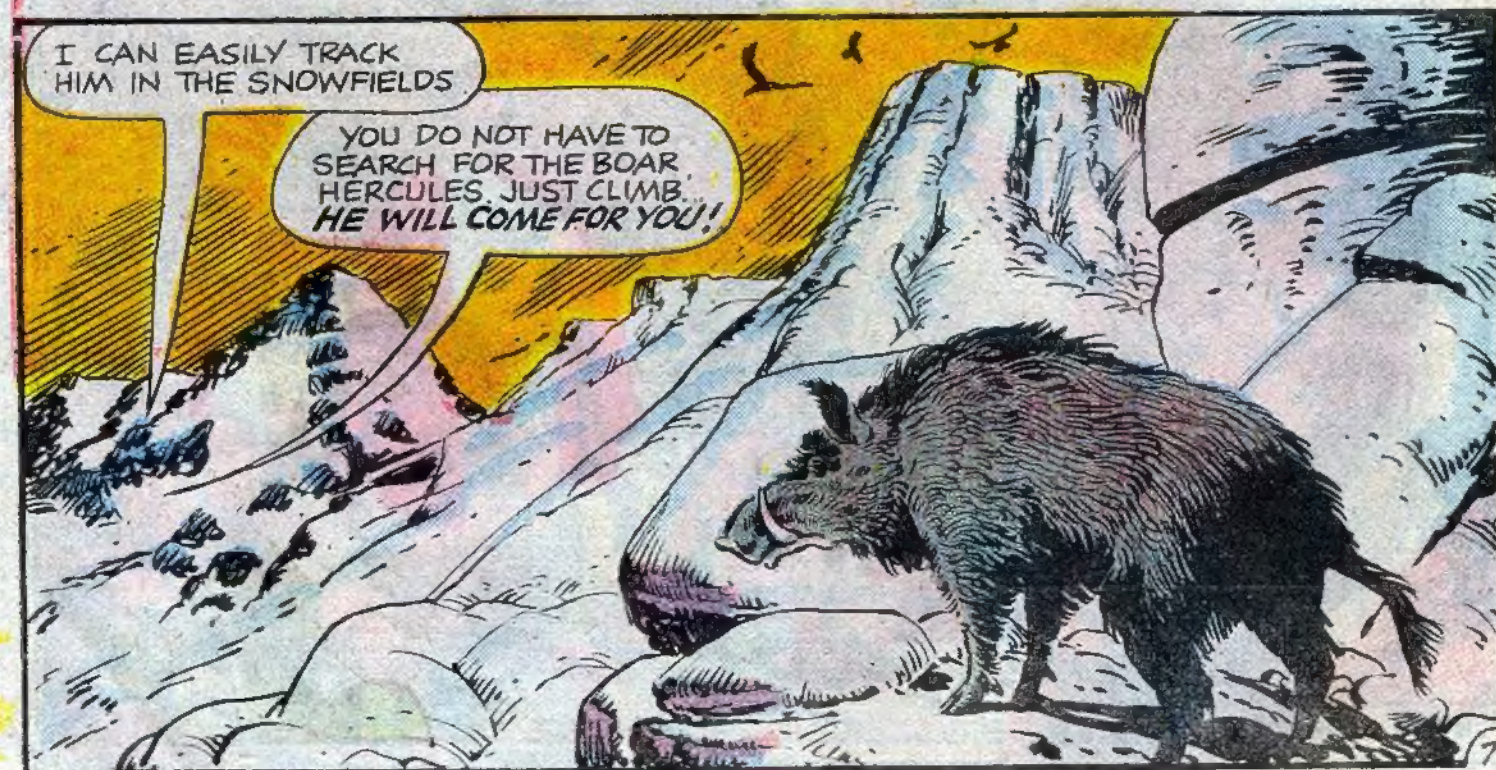
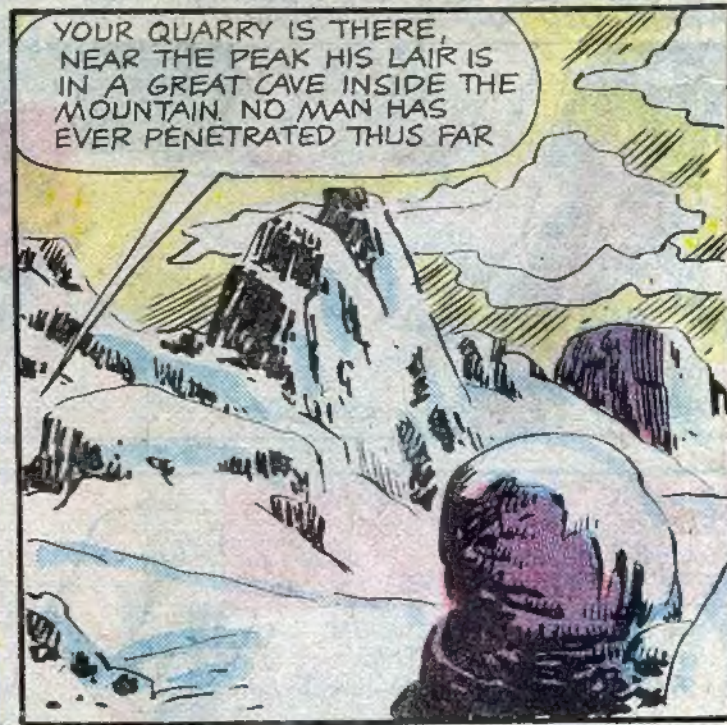
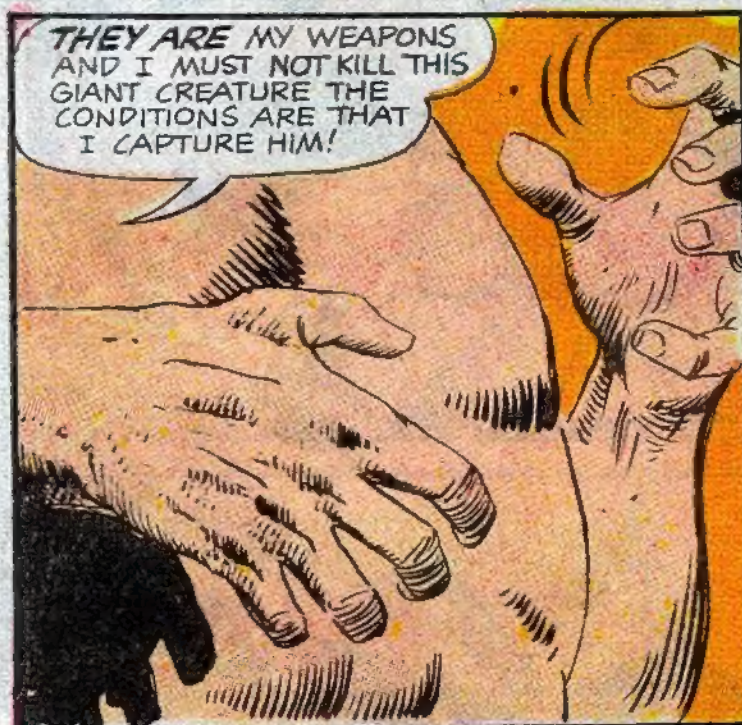
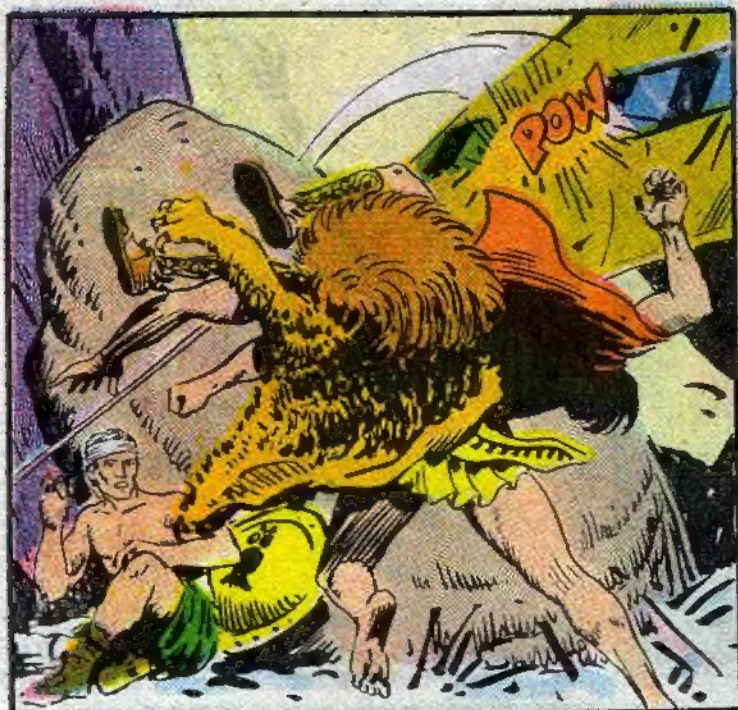


AT LAST... THE COMPANY OF
FELLOW-MEN! HERCULES
HURRIED FORWARD TO CON-
VERSE AND ASK DIRECTIONS...

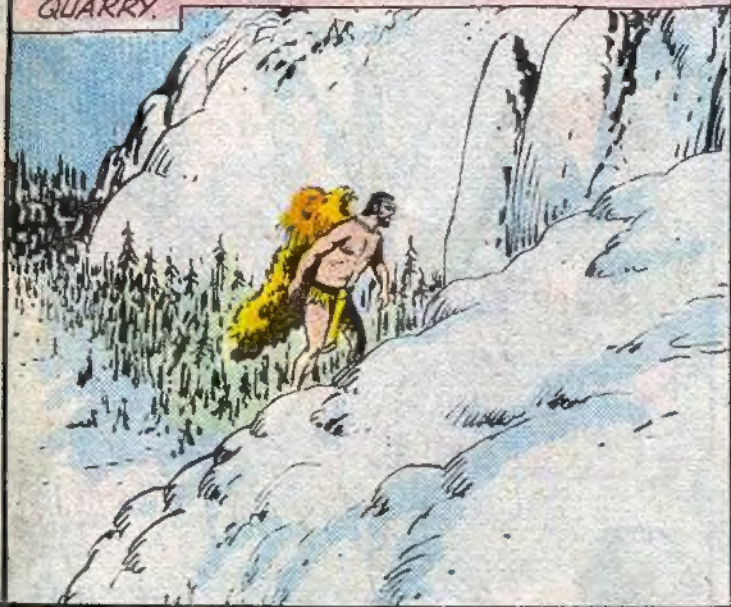
HAIL, I AM HERCULES,
HERE TO SEEK THE
GIANT BOAR OF MOUNT
ERYMANTHUS.

THEN YOU ARE
A FOOL.





HERCULES, AN EXPERIENCED HUNTER, KNEW HE WAS BEING WATCHED... BUT QUICK AS HIS EYE WAS, HE COULDN'T FIND HIS QUARRY.



BY THE HOUNDS OF ZEUS!
IF THESE BE TRACKS OF
A BOAR, THEN MY TASK
IS *WITHOUT HOPE!*



AND THE WORDS CARRIED TO THE FAR
REACHES OF MOUNT OLYMPUS... TO THE
ALWAYS-LISTENING EARS OF HERA
HERSELF.

'WITHOUT HOPE' HE SAID...
HEE HEEHEEHEE HEE HEE! WAIT
TILL ZEUS HEARS THAT THIS
HALF-MORTAL SON HAS GIVEN
IN TO *DESPAIR!*

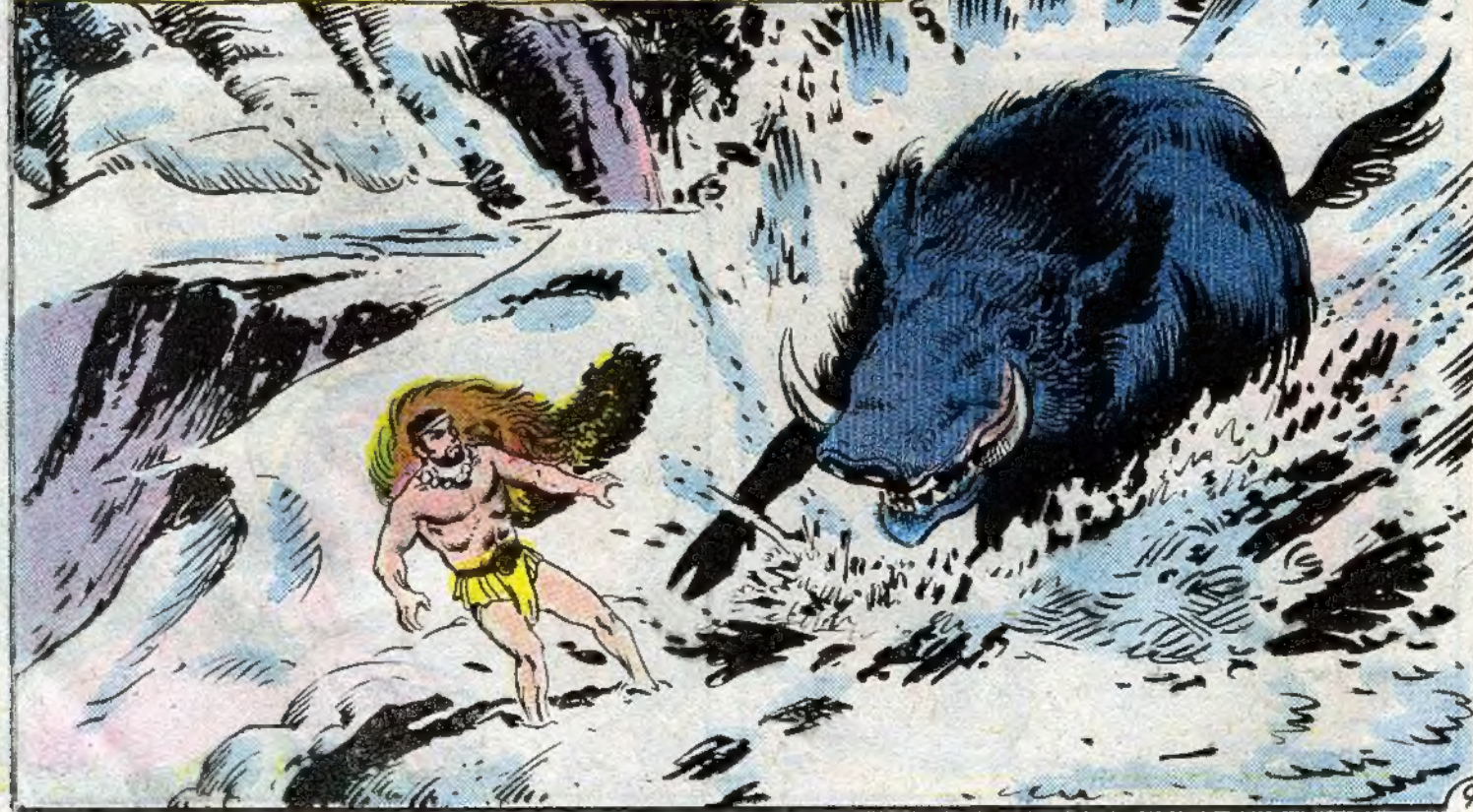




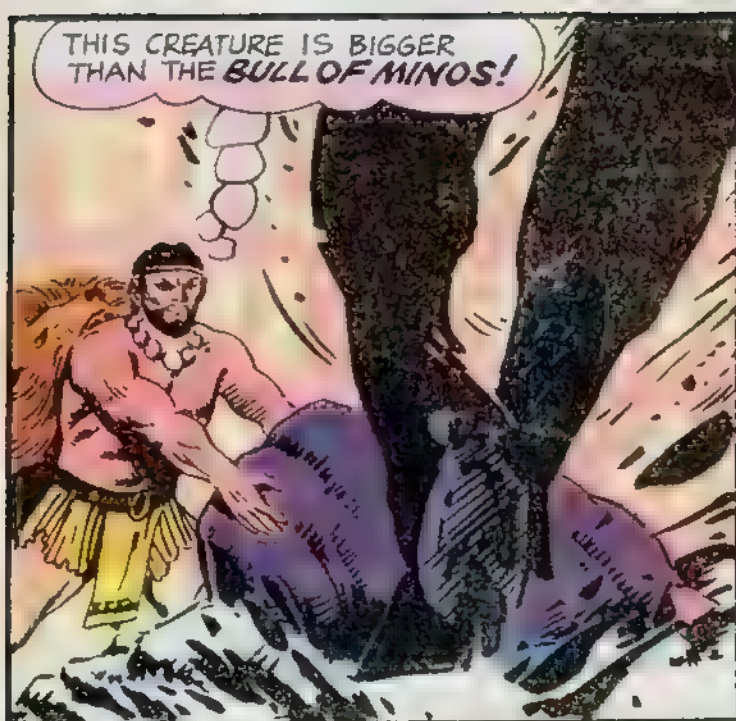
FOR A MOMENT, HERCULES STOOD SHOCKED AND CONFUSED. HE SAW **THREE** TRACKS THE BOAR MADE ON HIS FIRST TIME AROUND...



... AND NOW HERCULES SAW HIS OWN TRACKS AS HE TRAILED THE GREAT BOAR... WITH THE BOAR'S MASSIVE PRINTS BLOTING HIS PRINTS OUT IN PLACES. HERCULES DIDN'T HAVE TO TURN... HE KNEW WHAT WAS BEHIND HIM... AND HE ALMOST KNEW THE MEANING OF FEAR!



THIS CREATURE IS BIGGER
THAN THE *BULL OF MINOS*!



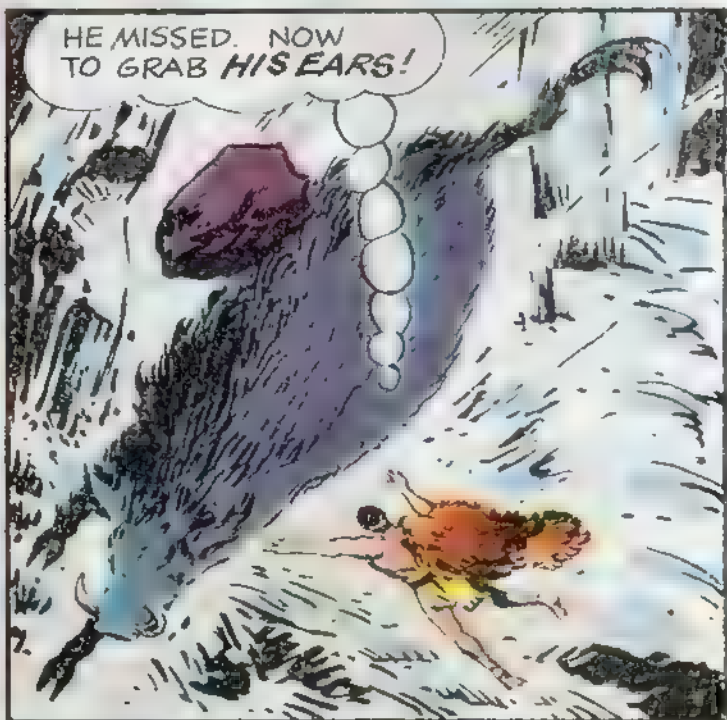
IF I STRIKE HIM
BETWEEN THE EYES...



NO THE ROCK WOULD BECOME
A *WEAPON*! AND I AM
FORBIDDEN TO USE ANYTHING
BUT MY *BARE HANDS*!



HE MISSED. NOW
TO GRAB *HIS EARS*!





NOW THE FRANTIC BOAR STRUGGLED,
TO HIS FEET. ASTRIDE HIM HERCULES
MIGHTY LEGS LOCKED.

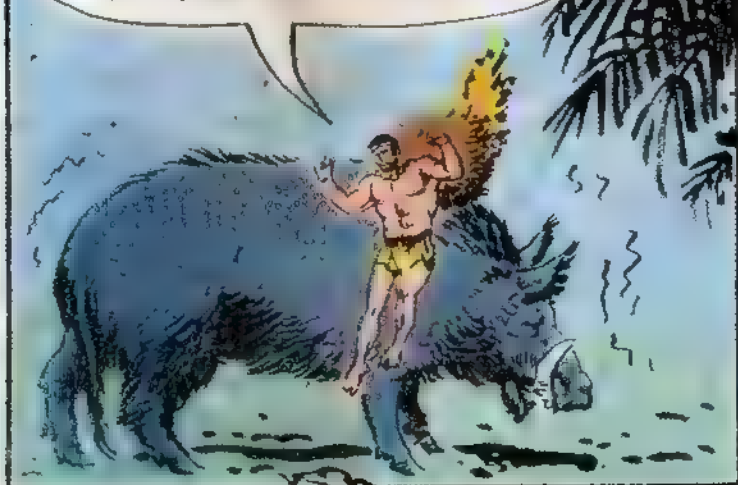


THE HUGE CREATURE'S
BUCKING LUNGES SHOOK
THE MOUNTAIN
AVALANCHES HURTTLED
DOWN THE SLOPES.
BUT HERCULES STAYED
ATOP THE MADDENED
BOAR OF ELYMANTHUS



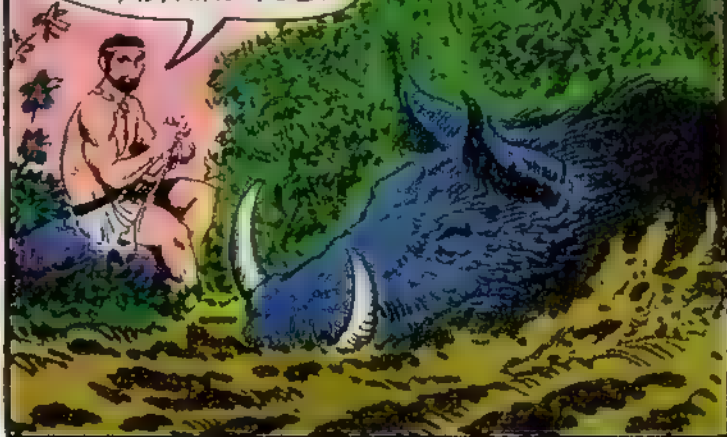
THE BATTLE RAGED UP AND DOWN THE SNOW-FIELDS OF ELYMANTHUS! BUT AFTER A WEEK, THE MIGHTY BOAR HAD NO FIGHT LEFT...

YOU HEED ME WELL, MIGHTY ONE. NOW... WE WILL GO SEE KING EURYSTHEUS WHO SENT ME TO FETCH YOU TO HIM.



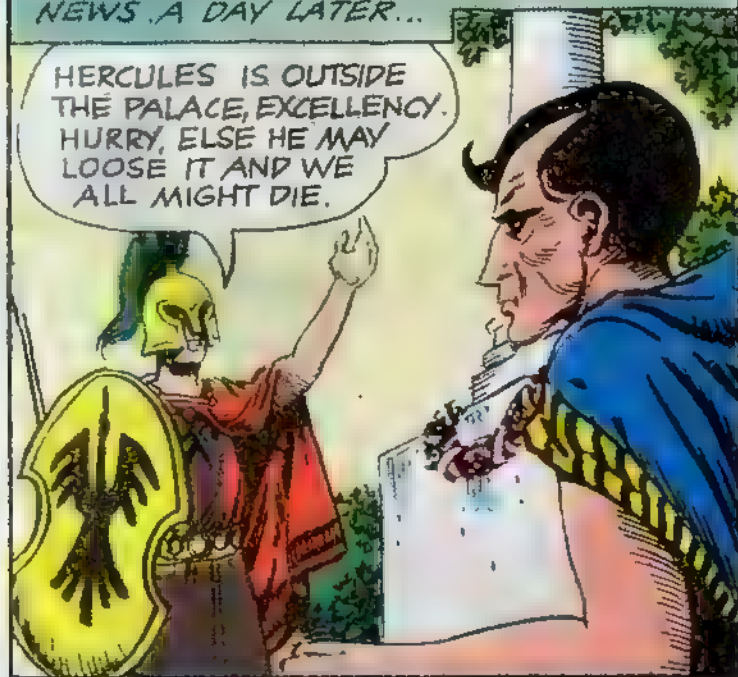
HERCULES BUSIED HIMSELF MAKING SOMETHING WHILE HIS NEW FRIEND DELIGHTED IN A MUDBATH AND FATTENED ON THE RICH GRASSES...

WE ARE NEAR MYCENAE, ... WHEN WE ENTER KING EURYSTHEUS' KINGDOM, I WANT THEM TO ADMIRE YOU.



THUS KING EURYSTHEUS RECEIVED THE NEWS A DAY LATER...

HERCULES IS OUTSIDE THE PALACE, EXCELLENCY. HURRY, ELSE HE MAY LOOSE IT AND WE ALL MIGHT DIE.

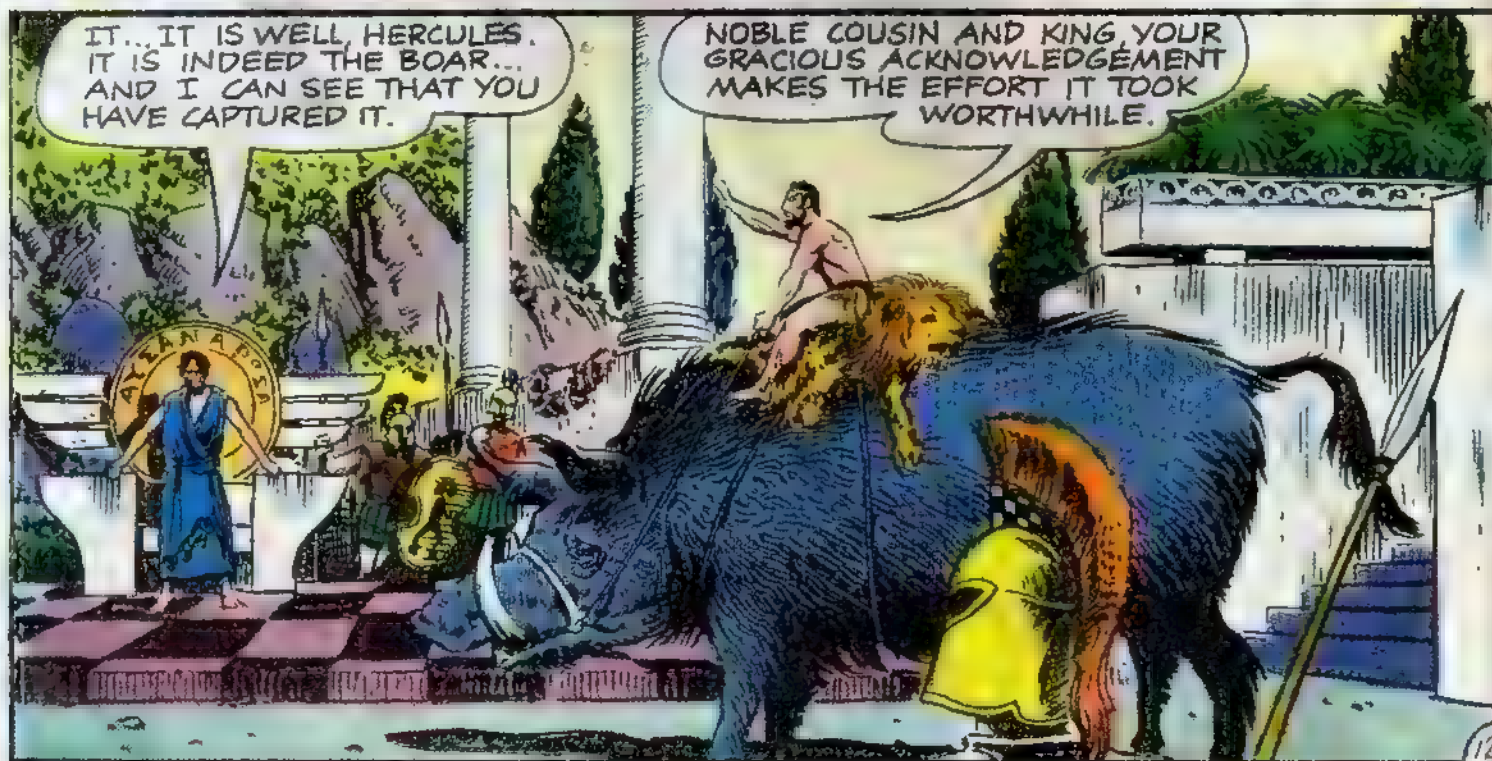


NO. EVEN HERCULES COULD NOT DO THIS...



IT... IT IS WELL, HERCULES. IT IS INDEED THE BOAR... AND I CAN SEE THAT YOU HAVE CAPTURED IT.

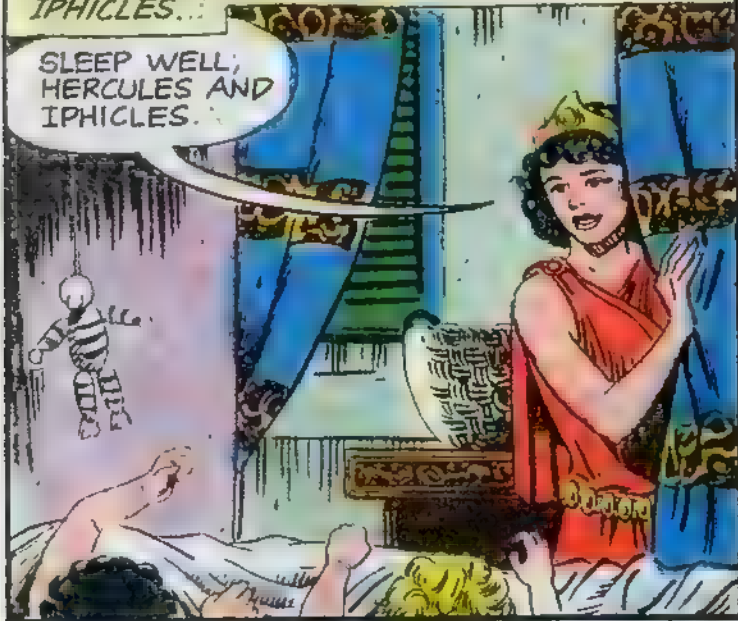
NOBLE COUSIN AND KING YOUR GRACIOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT MAKES THE EFFORT IT TOOK WORTHWHILE.



THE LEGEND OF HERCULES

HERE WAS HERCULES AS AN INFANT... TENDED AND LOVED BY ALCMENA, HIS BEAUTIFUL MOTHER, WITH HIS BROTHER IPHICLES...

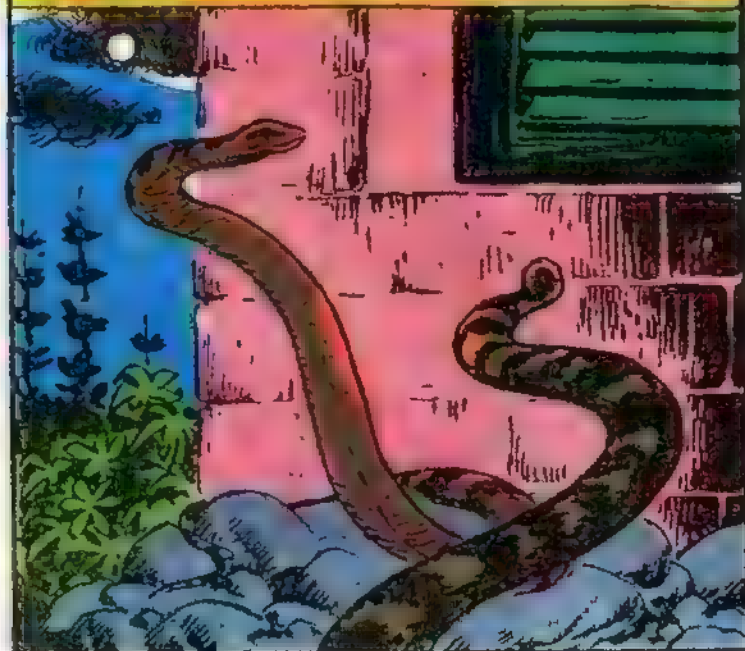
SLEEP WELL, HERCULES AND IPHICLES.



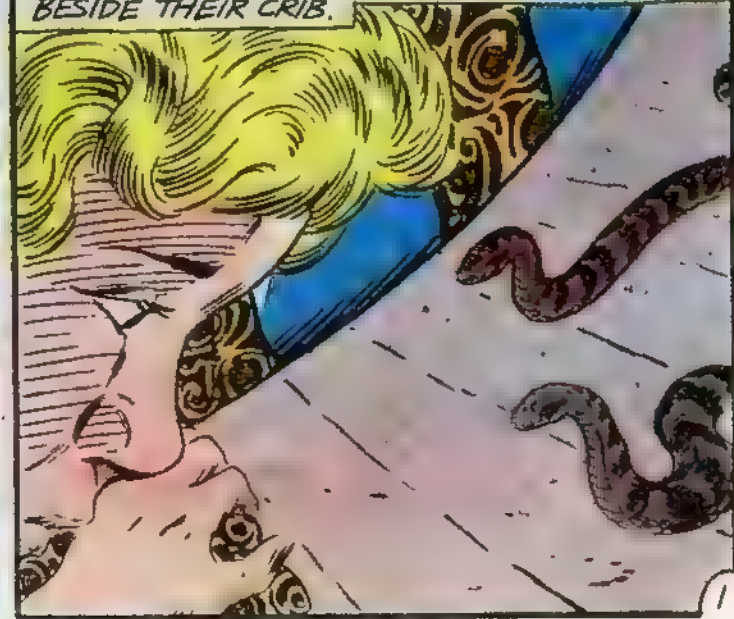
A BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHY BOY AT A YEAR, WAS HERCULES BUT VULNERABLE AS ANY INFANT AT THAT AGE

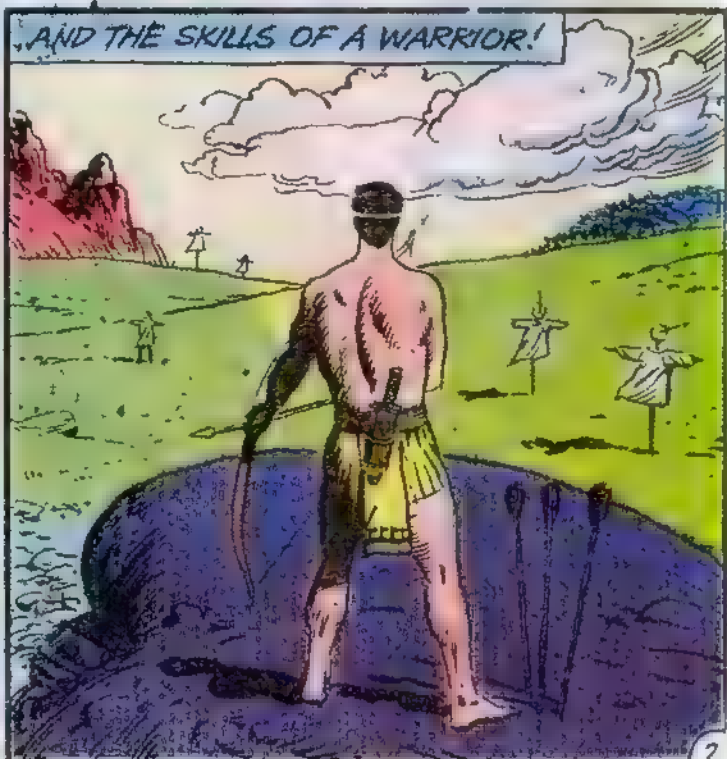
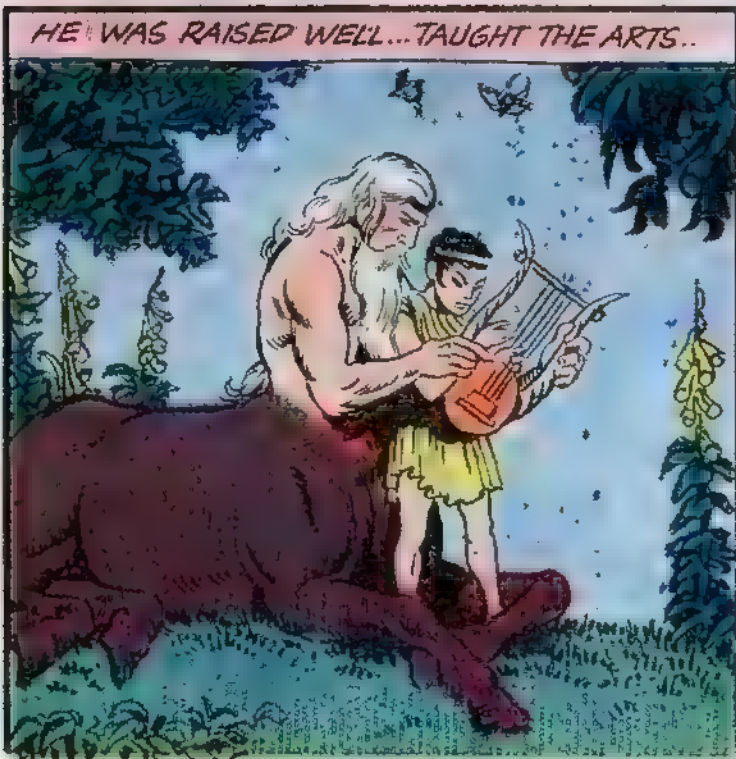
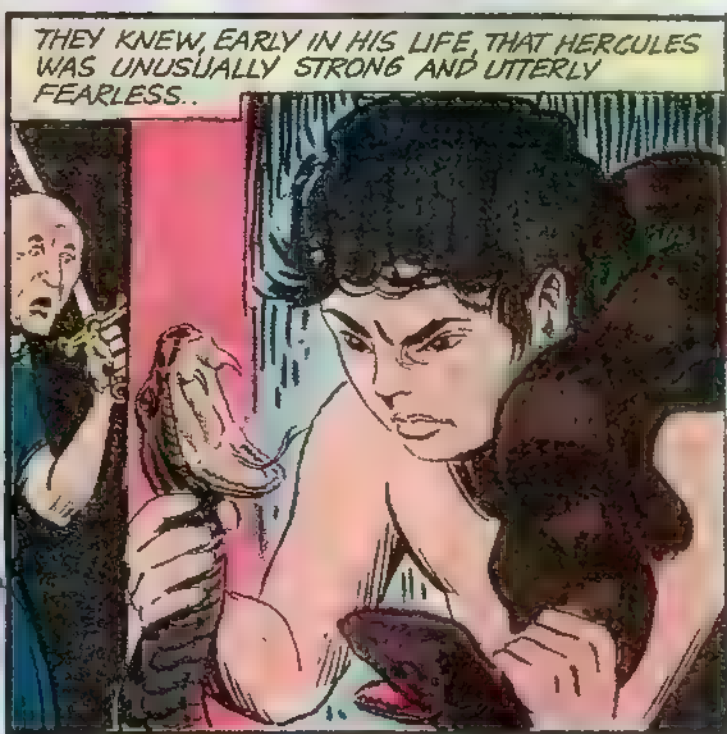


...AND THERE WERE DANGERS IN THE NIGHT, PERHAPS SENT BY THE QUEEN HERA WHOSE HATRED FOR THE BABY WAS GREAT...



HERCULES, TIRED FROM HIS DAYLONG PLAY, SLEPT DEEPLY... BUT HIS HALF-BROTHER, IPHICLES, WAS MORE WAKEFUL AND HE AWAKENED AS THE GREAT SERPENTS ROSE BESIDE THEIR CRIB.





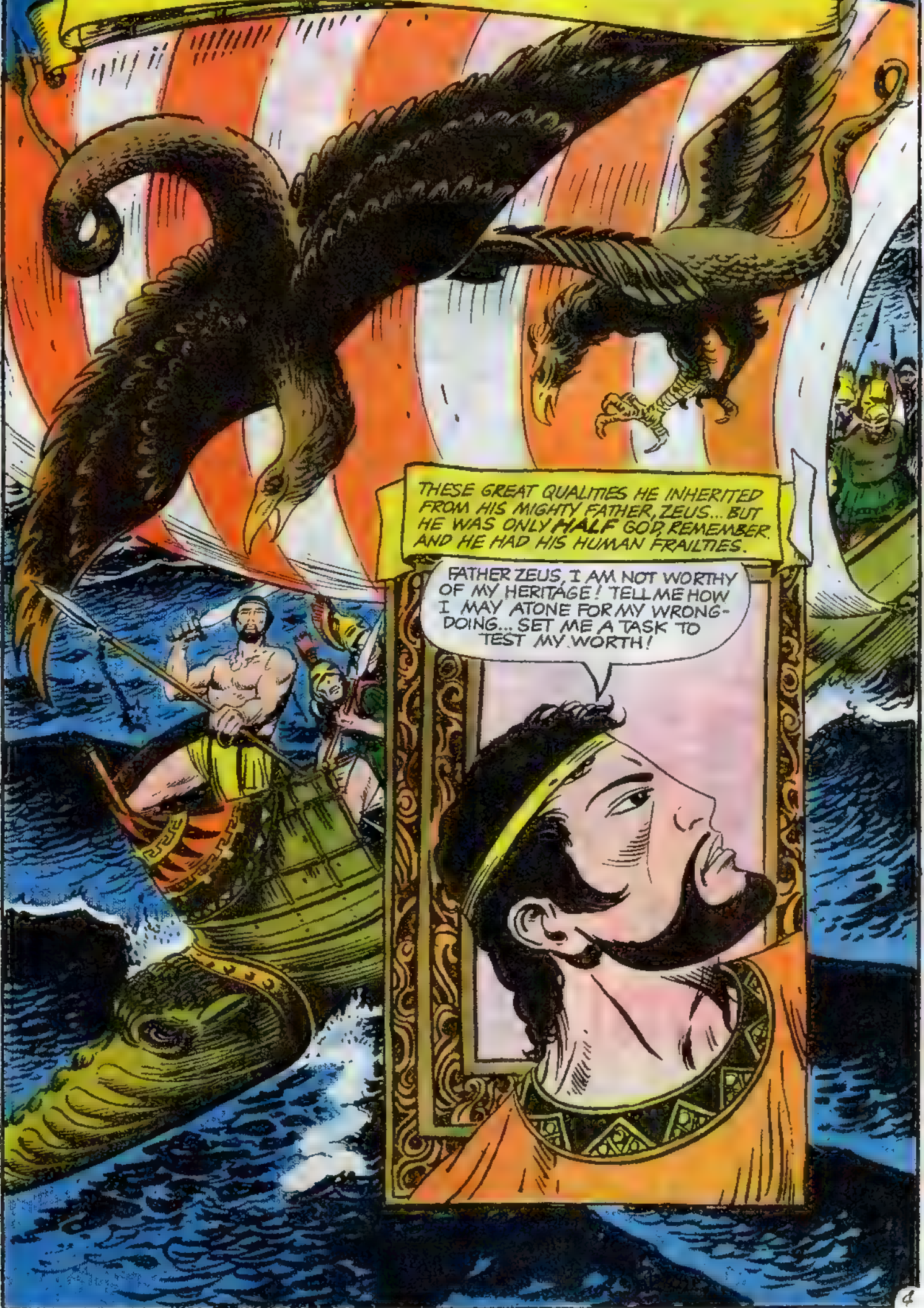


LEGEND TELLS US THAT
HERCULES AIDED THE
GODS OF OLYMPUS IN
THEIR GREAT STRUGGLE
WITH THE GIANTS AND
TITANS OF THE EARTH!
HAD THE GIANTS WON,
EVIL WOULD'VE REIGNED
... BUT ZEUS AND HIS
SONS SMASHED THEM
DOWN TO THE LAND OF
TARTARUS WHENCE
THEY LIE TO THIS DAY.

HE SAILED WITH JASON IN THE QUEST OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE HE WAS ADMIRER BY ALL MANKIND AS ONE OF ITS GREAT HEROES...

THESE GREAT QUALITIES HE INHERITED FROM HIS MIGHTY FATHER, ZEUS... BUT HE WAS ONLY HALF GOD, REMEMBER, AND HE HAD HIS HUMAN FRAILTIES.

FATHER ZEUS, I AM NOT WORTHY OF MY HERITAGE! TELL ME HOW I MAY ATONE FOR MY WRONG-DOING... SET ME A TASK TO TEST MY WORTH!



I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO TO
ATONE I WILL SEEK THE
FAMED **ORACLE OF DELPHI**
AND SEEK HER COUNSEL

AND IN THE FEARSOME TEMPLE OF THE ORACLE

I AM
HERE
TO

SEAT YE MAN-GOD HERCULES
I KNOW THY TROUBLED SPIRIT
I WILL COUNSEL THEE ON THE
PATH TO PEACE

GO THOU TO **EURYSTHEUS,**
KING OF MYCENAE. HE WILL
SET TWELVE LABORS, EACH OF
WHICH SHALL BE MORE DIFFICULT
THAN THE LAST PERFORM THESE
AND THOU WILL BE PURIFIED
AND TAKE THY PLACE ON
OLYMPUS WITH THY FATHER

AND SO HERCULES
SOUGHT KING
EURYSTHEUS IN THE
CITY OF MYCENAE..

I WILL SET
BUT **ONE** AT A TIME,
COUSIN HERCULES,
AS THEY ARE OF A
NATURE THAT METHINKS
WILL PROVE **FATAL**
BEFORE THOU COM-
PLETES THE **FIRST!**

I SEEK ATONEMENT, KING
EURYSTHEUS. THE ORACLE
OF DELPHI HAS SAID THOU
WILST SET TWELVE TASKS
WHAT ARE THEY?



THE TWELVE LABORS WERE INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT. HE SLEW THE FEARSOME NEMEAN LION.



... AND FOUGHT THE GIANT, GERION.



AND CHALLENGED DEATH HIMSELF AS WELL AS THE THREE-HEADED DOG, CERBERUS, IN THE NETHERWORLD.



WHEN HE WENT TO FETCH THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE HESPERIDES, HE MET WITH MIGHTY ATLAS WHO BEARS EARTH UPON HIS SHOULDER.



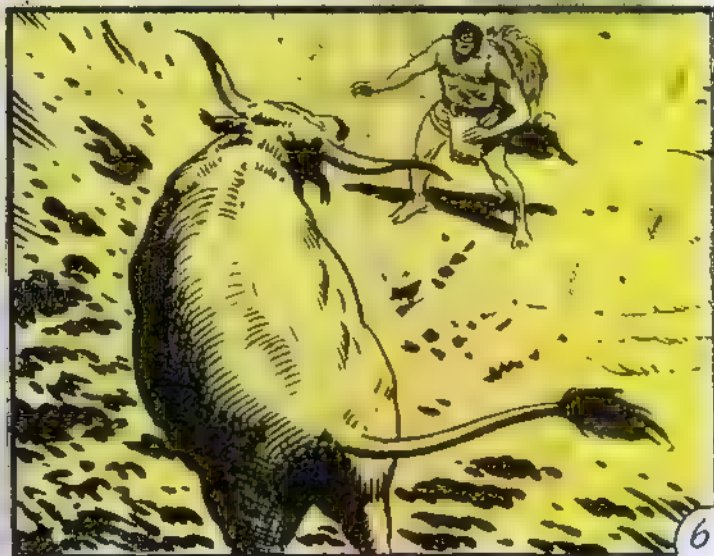
THE AMAZONS ALMOST DEFEATED THE MAN-GOD.



... AND THE HIDEOUS STYMPHALIAN BIRDS SOUGHT TO DESTROY HIM WITH BEAKS AND TALONS!



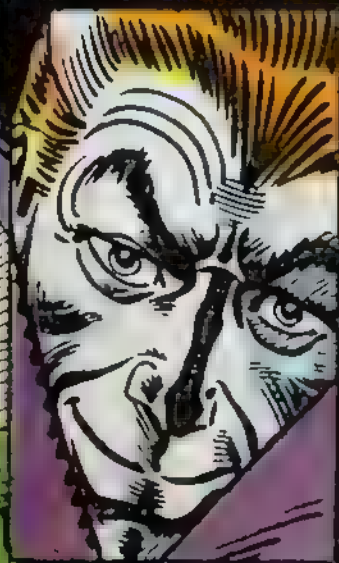
... AND IN THE LAST ISH, HERC CAPTURED THE MIGHTY BULL OF MINOS!



THIS BRINGS US UP-TO-DATE WITH THE CHAPTER IN THIS BOOK. LOOK FOR NEXT THRILLING INSTALLMENT: **DIOMEDE'S CURSE!**

THIS IS A DARK TALE ABOUT SOME VERY CURIOUS FOLK WHO ENJOY NOTHING BETTER THAN CRAWLING AROUND IN BLACK CAVES DEEP IN THE EARTH. IT IS ALSO THE STORY OF SKYLAR KING AND HIS WIFE ECHOL, AND DR. MANFRED NOSTROMO WHO INTRODUCED THEM TO...

THE THING IN THE HOLE

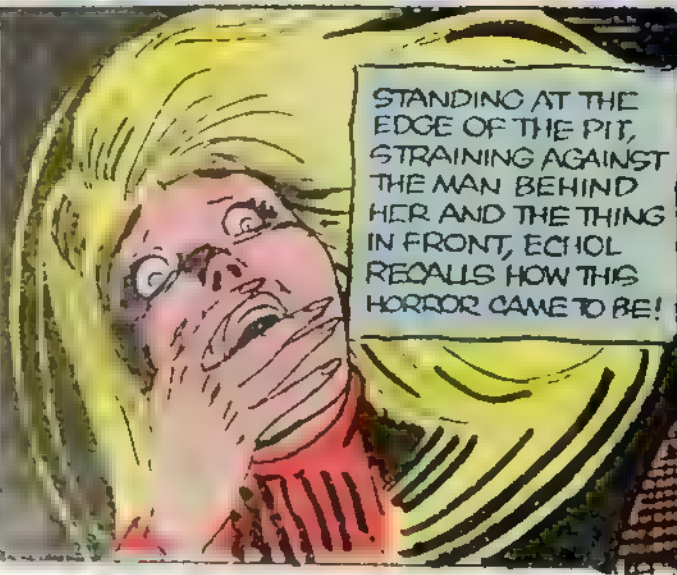


COME, MY DEAR... WE MUST JOIN HIM

SKYLAR! STOP! THE THING IN THE HOLE IS CONTROLLING YOUR MIND!

COME TO ME! DR. NOSTROMO HAS JOINED ME... NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO ENTER THE PIT... TO BECOME ONE WITH... WITH DARKNESS AND... DEATH!!

ART
SCRIPT
TOM
Sutton



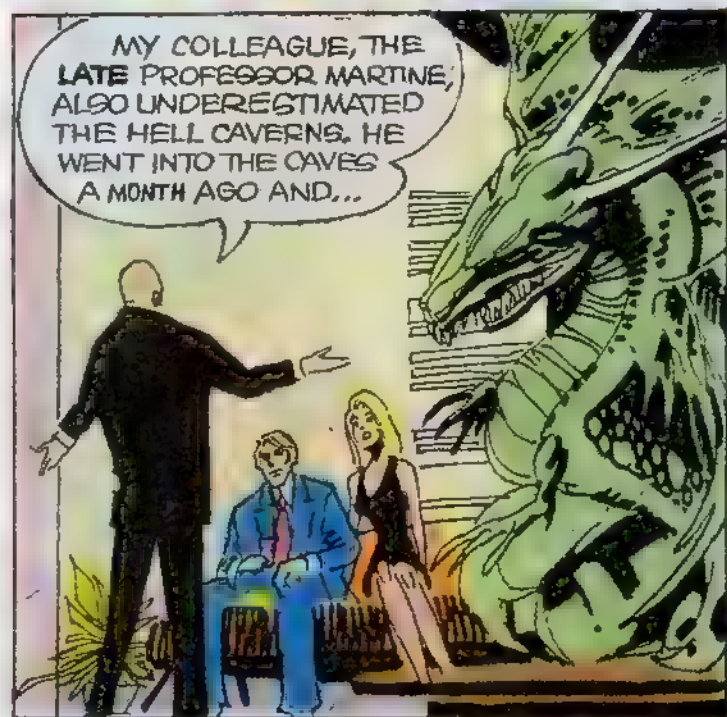
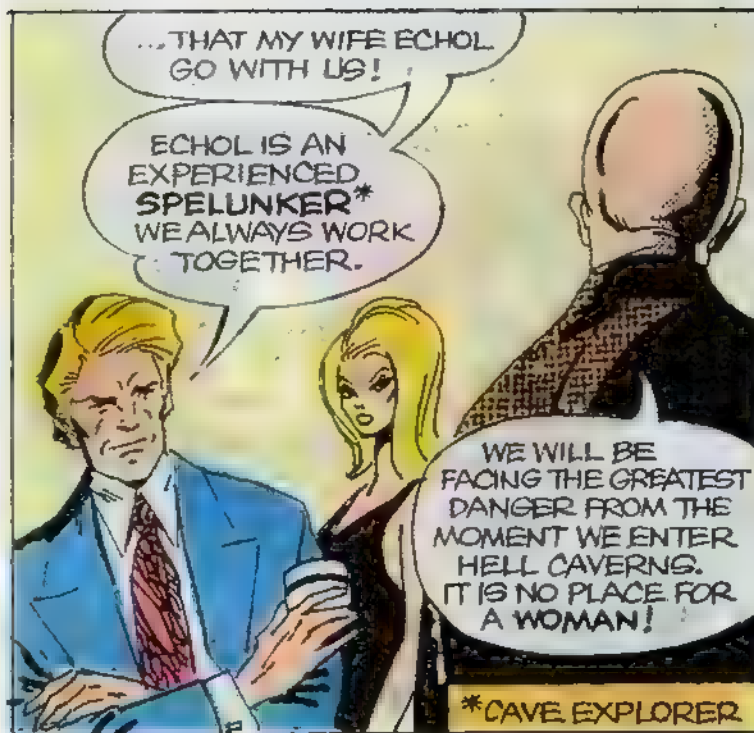
STANDING AT THE EDGE OF THE PIT, STRAINING AGAINST THE MAN BEHIND HER AND THE THING IN FRONT, ECHOL RECALLS HOW THIS HORROR CAME TO BE!

SCANT WEEKS BEFORE...

AN ENJOYABLE MEAL, SKYLAR KING, BUT YOU HAVE NOT AS YET GIVEN ME YOUR ANSWER. WILL YOU JOIN ME IN EXPLORING THE HELL CAVERNS?

I WILL ON ONE CONDITION, DR. NOSTROMO...









THE THING IN THE HOLE WAS DOING UGLY THINGS TO DR. NOSTROMO'S LIFELESS FORM. THINGS ECHOL COULDN'T BEAR TO WATCH.

THE THING'S MONSTROUS MIND, THAT SEETHING MAGNETIC WILL HAD CONTROL OF SKYLAR. HE WAS TEETERING AT THE BRINK OF THE PIT WHEN ECHOL DID TWO THINGS QUICKLY...

HER FEMALE INTELLECT FOUGHT OFF THE MONSTER'S WILL LONG ENOUGH TO HEAVE ON SKYLAR'S SAFETY LINE WITH ALL HER STRENGTH PULLING HIM UNDER THE ALTAR STONE WITH HER!



THEN SHE EMPTIED HIS PISTOL INTO THE STALACTITE-TOOTHED CEILING.



THE CHOKING DUST FINALLY SETTLED
AND SKYLAR AWOKE.

IT WAS A CLEVER SOLUTION,
DARLING... BUT IN THE PRO-
CESS YOU'VE **SEALED** US IN
HERE. WE HAVE NO MORE
CHANCE OF **ESCAPING**
OUR FATE THAN HE HAD.

YOU MEAN THE
MONSTER?

REMEMBER THE OLD
CAMPSITES, THE
DISCARDED GEAR
WE FOUND...

HE WAS ONCE A MAN...
LOST HIS WAY...
STARVING HE CAME
UPON THE **FUNGUS!**

AND THE THING IN THE
HOLE WAS THE RESULT
OF **EATING** THE FUNGUS!

WELL, NOT ME!
I'D GLADLY **DIE**
RATHER THAN BECOME
A **THING** LIKE HIM!

AND AT THAT
MOMENT OUT OF
THE DEAD SILENCE
OF THE PIT CAME
THAT LAST WEAK
WIND-WHISTLING
THOUGHT OF THE
THING. THE FREEZING
HORROR OF IT
ETCHED THEIR FEAR
NUMBED MINDS.

I TOO THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER
GIVE IN, BUT... WHEN THE HUNGER
IS GREAT ENOUGH, YOU WILL **FEED...**
FEED... FEED... FEED!!

THE END